Oswald-Ruby 'links' bared

NEW YORK POST, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1977

By JOSEPH BERGER

A new book on the John F. Kennedy assassination says there are at least three persons who had intriguing encounters with both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

The three are a retired CIA operative who traveled to Mexico around the same time Oswald made the trip and later identified as an FBI informant on Ruby; a researcher who met Oswald at a political gathering and then visited Ruby's Dallas nightclub the same evening, and a Cuban gunrunner who claims he had abortive business dealings with both men.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy assassination, was unable to discover any "direct or indirect relationship" between Oswald and Ruby. It concluded that Oswald, acting alone, murdered the President and that Ruby shot Oswald in a fit of patriotic rage.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD
Assassination student.

'EXPENSIVE' HOBBY

The new book is called "Coincidence or Conspiracy" and was put together by the nine-year-old Committee to Investigate Assassination under the direction of Bernard Fensterwald, a wealthy book, Fensterwad discussed Washington lawyer who has studied the Kennedy assassination as a "rather expensive" hobby.

A onetime Congressional committee counsel, Fensterwald has had as clients Watergate conspirator James McCord and James Earl Ray, the confessed assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The book is a compendium of the most recent findings—flowing from both official and private inquiries into the Kennedy murder. It is arranged as a collection of portraits of some 200 persons who have a provocative relationship to the assassination or the subsequent investigation. Many of its conspiracy theories, Fensterwald admits, cancel each other out.

In town to promote the book, Fensterwal discussed the three Oswald-Ruby links and noted that they had been pinned down over the last couple of years.

CIA FREELANCER

William Gaudet, he said, was the publisher of a New Orleans newsletter which assessed political and business conditions in Latin America. He also "freelanced" for the CIA for many years.

On Sept. 17, 1963, Oswald went to the Mexican consulate in New Orleans to apply for a "tourist card." Gaudet received his card immediately before Oswald.

While in Mexico, Oswald visited both the Cuban and Soviet embassies in an effort to obtain visas. His contacts were monitored by the CIA and the trip itself became a focal point of inquiries into a possible foreign conspiracy.

Fensterwald says that Gaudet emerges as a particularly curious figure because he was identified as the informant on an FBI report describing a visit by Ruby to New Orleans to purchase some oil paintings.

In addition, Fensterwald says, an effort was made to conceal Gaudet's identity. The list of persons who received Mexican tourist cards on Sept. 17, 1963, was included among the publicly available Warren Commission documents but Gaudet's name was always excised. It was recently disclosed through a clerical error, he said.

JUST COINCIDENCE

Gaudet said in a telephone interview yesterday from his home in Waveland, Miss., that he is puzzled by his name being excluded from the list. But he saw nothing more than coincidence in the fact that a CIA operative received a Mexican visa prior to Oswald.

The second link reported in the book involves Raymond Krystinik, who met Oswald at a Dallas gathering of the American Civil Liberties Union in October 1963.

According to the book, the two men debated Oswald's Marxist and socialist views. Then Krystinik left for home, but on the way he and his wife decided to stop over at a nightclub that featured "exotic dancers." The nightclub turned out to be Ruby's Carousel Club, a strip joint, and Ruby came over to the Krystiniks' table at one point to request that they move to a smller one.

Kristinik, a researcher at Bell Helicopter Laboratory, has told the same story to the House Committee on Assassinations and curtly confirmed the details in a telephone interview.

Sources familiar with his account say he expressed amazement at the coincidence, but denied that his encounter with both Kennedy's assassin and the assassin's murderer on the same evening was anything more than just that.

The third link mentioned involves Robert McKeown, a purported smuggler of guns to Cuba, who told the Warren Commission that Jack Ruby had come to him in 1959 with a scheme to smuggle jeeps into Cuba.

According to the book, McKeown told CBS reporter Dan Rather in 1975 that Oswald and an unidentified Latin companion had tried to buy several automatic rifles from him a few weeks before the assassination.